



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony to the Human Services Committee by Rep. Beth Bye
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Good Morning,

Thank you Chair. Rep. Walker, Sen. Doyle and Distinguished Committee Members

1. HB 5426, concerning Child Care subsidies for unemployed under the Care 4 Kids Program.
 - Concern raised by parent advocates
 - These are tough times for families, and many are finding job transitions take longer than in the past as the economy has slowed.
 - Currently, if a parent loses their job, they lose their child care benefit after 6 weeks, sometimes extended to 8 weeks.
 - Very disruptive for the child who is in a child care setting and needs to leave. It also makes it difficult for parents who are seeking work.
 - This bill would cost additional dollars for the Care 4 Kids DSS appropriation, but this is federally funded as part of the TANF Block grant.
 - a. I ask that these appropriations be analyzed to see if a reallocation can cover the additional costs of covering job transitions for a longer period.
2. HB 5841, Concerning a uniform reporting forms for preschool and child day care Programs
 - I introduced this bill to support ongoing work among DSS, SDE, and DPH with the cabinet, CT Charts a Course and early childhood educators to make the reporting process more sensible.
 - This process will help the State of Connecticut maintain more thorough and accurate information about programs, teachers and children. Also

is very time consuming for programs and for ST of CT staff who need to review and compile information.

- i. Examples: teacher qualifications, attendance, program site plan, curriculum information, child attendance
- Over the course of the next 4 weeks, we are meeting to review all the required reports and duplication.
 - i. We are hopeful that the vast majority of changes can be managed without legislation.
 - ii. Web based applications in process and being piloted by DSS Centers could be made available to all departments, for program info.
 - iii. May be changes needed in statute to reduce the duplication.
- This Bill holds a place for these changes, if needed.

Thanks you for your time and attention today.